

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for performing configuration management relative to an aircraft, the apparatus comprising:
a portable computer having a processor and memory configured ~~to communicate with for connection with~~ a plurality of components of the aircraft ~~[[and]]~~ to receive ~~retrieve~~ data ~~transmitted~~ from one or more modules of the aircraft components;
the processor and memory configured to, when the portable computer is operating standalone:
execute a web server module executable by the processor resident in the portable computer to include at least some of the received ~~retrieved~~ data in one or more web page markups ~~for~~ providing a plurality of maintenance and/or engineering functions selectable by a user of the computer and performable via the computer as to one or more of the components of the aircraft; and
execute a web browser module executable by the processor resident in the portable computer and in communication with the server module to display the one or more web page markups as one or more web pages on a display of the portable computer.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the maintenance and/or engineering functions comprise one or more of the following: a configuration management function, a software upgrade function, a health status function, and a troubleshooting function.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, the computer further comprising a configuration file resident in the computer for holding the received data, the server module executable by the processor to process data from the configuration file for inclusion in the one or more web page markups.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising one or more constructs included in the web page markups, the computer further comprising a construct processing module configured with the server for execution by the processor to use the data from the configuration file to produce the one or more web page markups.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a script executable by the processor through the server to activate the construct processing module.

6. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the construct processing module is configured to use a common gateway interface of the server to obtain data from the configuration file.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the aircraft is included in a fleet managed via a network operations center, the computer further operable to deliver at least one of the data from the configuration file and the one or more web pages specific to a given one of the aircraft to the network operations center.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, the computer further operable to perform at least one of updating software included in at least one of the components of the aircraft, collecting performance data from at least one of the components of the aircraft, and operating a troubleshooting tool relative to at least one of the components of the aircraft.

9. (previously presented) An apparatus for performing configuration management relative to an aircraft, the apparatus comprising:

a portable computer having a processor and memory, the computer connectible with the aircraft to transmit data to and retrieve data from one or more modules included in one or more components of the aircraft, the data pertaining to one or more

maintenance and/or engineering functions performable as to the one or more components of the aircraft; and

a configuration file configured in the computer to receive data transmitted from the one or more aircraft components;

the computer configured to dynamically format at least some of the data from the configuration file for presentation as one or more web pages to a user of the computer via a display of the computer, said formatting performed by the processor using server and browser modules resident in the computer;

at least one of the web pages dynamically formattable to indicate aircraft hardware components and software subcomponents potentially affected by one of the maintenance actions.

10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the computer is configured to transmit a loadable software module to the one or more aircraft components to update one of the modules of the one or more aircraft components.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, the browser configured to display a web page based on input by the user to the computer.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the computer is configured to retrieve the data from the one or more aircraft components using a simple network management protocol.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a construct processing module executable by the processor to update the one or more web pages using one or more constructs, the construct processing module configured to obtain data from the configuration file using a common gateway interface (CGI) of the server that does not interface with an internet.

14. (currently amended) A method of managing configuration of an aircraft, the method comprising:

connecting a computer to the aircraft for communication with one or more software modules resident in one or more components of the aircraft;

causing the computer to retrieve from the one or more modules data describing (a) one or more hardware components of the aircraft and (b) software resident in the one or more hardware components; and

using a server module resident in the computer and a browser module resident in the computer, viewing the retrieved data and one or more user-selectable management functions relating to the retrieved data on a display of the computer in one or more web pages formatted and displayed by a processor of the computer executing the server and browser modules resident in the computer;

the method performed without accessing the Internet.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising selecting a management function based on the retrieved data, the selecting performed using one of the one or more web pages.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein selecting a management function comprises selecting one of the following: updating the software resident in the one or more hardware components of the aircraft, collecting performance data from the aircraft components, and operating a troubleshooting tool relative to the aircraft components.

17. (previously presented) A method of providing configuration management relative to an aircraft, the method performed by a portable computer having a processor and memory, the method comprising:

the processor causing the portable computer to access one or more components of an aircraft and to retrieve data from the one or more components in response to a user request received via a browser module and web server module of the portable computer;

the processor executing the web server module to dynamically format at least some of the data retrieved from the one or more aircraft components into one or more web page markups for display as one or more web pages via the browser module;

the processor receiving user input via the browser module indicating a management function to be performed on at least one of the one or more aircraft components; and

the processor causing software to be downloaded from the portable computer to the at least one of the one or more components in response to the user input.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, the processor causing the portable computer to access one or more line replaceable units of the aircraft, the method further comprising the processor causing a ping status to be displayed for each of one or more of the one or more line replaceable units of the aircraft.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the processor displaying data describing (a) one or more hardware components of the aircraft and (b) software resident in the one or more hardware components.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising transferring data to the one or more aircraft components based on user input via one of the one or more web pages.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising storing the data received from the aircraft in a configuration file of the computer.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the formatting processor executing the web server module comprises the processor processing one or more constructs to include dynamic content in a web page, the processing performed using a construct processing module of the server to obtain the data via a common

gateway interface (CGI), the CGI executable in the computer when the computer is standalone.